



# Cowlitz County Historic Preservation Commission

Meeting Summary  
Thursday, December 8, 2022

**10:00 am: ROLL CALL:** Chair Joel Rupley called the meeting to order.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Deputy Chair – Harvey Williamson  
Chair – Joel Rupley  
Dr. David Rice  
Erin Thoeny  
Butch Ogden  
Bill Watson

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

none

**STAFF PRESENT:** Adam Trimble – Senior Planner, Lorraine Fuller – GIS Technician, Paul Galli – County Surveyor, DAHP Staff: Michael Houser, State Architectural Historian, Michelle Thompson, CLG coordinator.

**CHANGES TO AGENDA:** Joel Rupley asked to add an item regarding the Cowlitz Trails project to the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARIES:** Commissioners noted several corrections to name spelling and punctuation. In the November minutes the distinction between National Register vs inventory, was noted. In the October meeting the spelling of Williams vs Williamson was noted.

**SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES:**

- MOU data sharing agreement renewal at DAHP: Michelle Thompson from DAHP said she would look into the status.
- **Election of Chair and Vice Chair:** The secretary accepted nominations for the Chair position. Commissioner Rupley noted he was not seeking the chair position. Harvey Williamson was nominated. Upon a vote, Mr. Williamson will serve as the chair of the HPC going forward. Joel Rupley nominated Butch Ogden for deputy chair. Mr. Ogden accepted and upon a vote was selected and the next deputy chair of the commission.
- Joel Rupley proposed to the commission that he work with staff to have the Cowlitz Trails 3 different info boards (brochures) installed permanently at the Toutle rest stop on I-5 South bound. Dr. Rice suggested a contact at WSOT to follow up with. The group approved of the effort.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Members of the Rose Valley Grange were in attendance and shared that the grange has a long history in the area. It was built, burned and re-built and has been a grange since 1930. Sadly the septic is no longer functioning. A septic system shared with the school has collapsed, the heater is not working (old oil furnace) and the school asked them to remove the tank because it is near the water well that they share with the school. The Rose Valley grangers discussed with the commission the importance to maintain the structure for community. The building is older than other granges. Anything that could help maintain the grange would be much appreciated. Staff encouraged them to follow up and make an appointment to look into getting on the historic register and then researching grant opportunities. Michelle Thompson with DAHP mentioned the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program announced by the National Parks Service. It focuses on rural settings. Butch Ogden noted that all our granges need help.

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

**Discussion: Historic Property Inventory Sub-Committee**

- Staff informed the Commissioners that 6 contacts have been received, indicating they would like more information. Staff has invited them to meetings and will follow up with them. DAHP staff noted that there are virtually no properties inventoried in Cowlitz County jurisdiction in the state inventory system WISAARD. He noted WISAARD contains inventoried and registered properties. Inventorying properties imposes no restrictions and no obligations on owners but at least provides the opportunity for federal projects to understand what resources might be out there and be sensitive to them if needed.
- Dr. Rice commented that he would like to see more pre-historic sites included in the inventory so that history is not left out.

**Architectural Styles Training: DAHP staff**

Michael Houser, State Architectural Historian and Michelle Thompson, Certified Local Government Coordinator, Dept. Archaeology and Historic Preservation were in attendance to give a presentation on architectural styles. Mr. Houser provided a training on recognizing and classifying residential styles that may be present in County jurisdiction. There are many properties of different eras which fit into a defined style and thus can be recognized and possibly nominated to a historic register if they are an intact example with significance. A question about integrity was asked: Michelle Thompson provided that the local register provides tremendous leeway to recognize and nominate properties- local significance, association with people of local significance or events that occurred a place for example. The Commission thanked DAHP staff for their time and presence at the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** outgoing chair Joel Rupley adjourned the meeting around 11:45pm